

Lady Death



THERE'S A STARK CHILL IN THE AIR, BUT LADY DEATH DOESN'T FEEL IT, FOR SHE IS COLDER THAN THE FIERCEST WINTER STORM.

WITH EACH STRIDE SHE DRAWS CLOSER TO BATTLE, YET RECENT MEMORIES PLAGUE HER, REPLAYING OVER AND OVER IN AN ENDLESS NIGHTMARE PROCESSION.

AND HER INSURMOUNTABLE ANGER, HER FRENZY GROWS.

THERE'S THE HARSH ODOR OF ASH, OF BURNING FLESH, BUT SHE DOESN'T FEAR IT, FOR NOTIONS OF DEATH AND DYING COMFORT HER.

SHE CAME TO ASGARD, A LONER, A WANDERER. SHE LEARNED SHE HAD FAMILY AMONG THE WARRIOR NORTHMEN, AND FOR ONCE SHE FELT LIKE SHE BELONGED.

BUT THE ONE DEAREST TO HER -- HER HALF SISTER VANDALA -- WAS SLAIN WHILE SHE SLEPT, HER LIFE ENDED BY AN OLD ENEMY WITH A DEADLY, HIDDEN AGENDA.

I'M NUMB. DON'T FEEL ANY ONE WAY, FEEL TOO MUCH. ONE SECOND I SMILE AT THE NOTION THAT VANDALA OF ALL PEOPLE TURNED OUT TO BE FAMILY, AND THE NEXT I WANT TO BURST INTO TEARS BECAUSE I LOST HER, IT'S SO HARD TO CARE, SO PAINFUL.

EASIER TO TUCK ALL MY FEELINGS AWAY. BURY THEM.

GIVE INTO ANGER.

FASTER, WOLF! FASTER, YOU HEAR ME?!

RR
RR
A

AS SHE DARES TO IMAGINE WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN, SHE EMBRACES THE FESTERING DARKNESS IN HER HEART LIKE A TRUSTED OLD FRIEND AND READIES FOR WAR!

LAI D OUT BEFORE HER IS A VAST PANORAMA OF WAR, BUT SHE WELCOMES IT. BETTER THIS, THAN THE HOLLOW FEELINGS OF LOSS THAT GNAW AT HER.

POOR VANDALA BORE THE MARK OF THAT WRETCH, SINISTRA... HER THROAT SLIT! I ENCOUNTERED HER AND HER LORD GENOCIDE YEARS AGO IN MY ENDLESS GRAVEYARD, BUT I'VE NEVER DIVINED THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT.

AND NOW STRANGELY, SHE APPEARS HERE IN ASGARD.

IT LOOKS AS IF THE ASGARDIANS AND THE FROST GIANTS AREN'T FARING WELL, THOUGH LORD TYR IS COMMANDER, THEY'RE DISORGANIZED, UNFOCUSED.

BUT THIS BATTLE IS CRITICAL! IF WE LOSE THESE NORTHLANDS, CITY ASGARD IS VULNERABLE TO ATTACK.

THESE DOOM MAGISTRATES ARE FAR TOO FIERCE! UNLIKE ANY FOES I'VE FACED, THEY CHANGE SHAPE, THEIR BLOOD BREEDS PARASITES!

SURELY THEY COULD HAVE LAUNCHED THIS CAMPAIGN EARLIER. WHY ATTACK NOW?

PART OF GENOCIDE'S MASTER PLAN, PERHAPS?

DIE, SOFT SKIN, IN THE NAME OF GENOCIDE AND CHAOS!

FER-ACK!

BACK OFF, MONGREL!

LOOK! THE CHOSEN ONE APPROACHES! PERHAPS SHE CAN TURN THE TIDE?

BAH! NO ONE CAN HELP US. WE FACE THE END!

HURRY! THE MAGISTRATES ARE PULLING UP THE DRAW-BRIDGE!

No!

FWAK

AAA
A!

No!

UGH!

SLURP



IN THE
DISTANCE
I SEE TYR! HE'S
SURROUNDED!

I'LL MASK
MY FACE, SO
THE MAGISTRATES'
BLOOD PARASITES
WON'T ENTER
ME!

FASTER,
WOLF!

THE BATTLE
IS LOST, GIANT.
THEY'VE LIPPED
THE DRAWBRIDGE.
WE'VE LOST OUR
ADVANTAGE.
WHAT A
WRETCHED WAY
TO DIE, IN THE
COMPANY OF
OLD ENEMIES.

THOUGH
WE PUT ASIDE
OUR DIFFERENCES
FOR BATTLE, I MUST
CONFESS, YOUR
ASGARDIAN STENCH
IS APPALLING.

PREPARE
TO MEET YOUR
MAKER, SOFT
SKIN.

SHRAK

WHO?

LADY
DEATH?

THE
CHOSEN
ONE!

YOUR
BATTLE GOES
POORLY,
TYR.

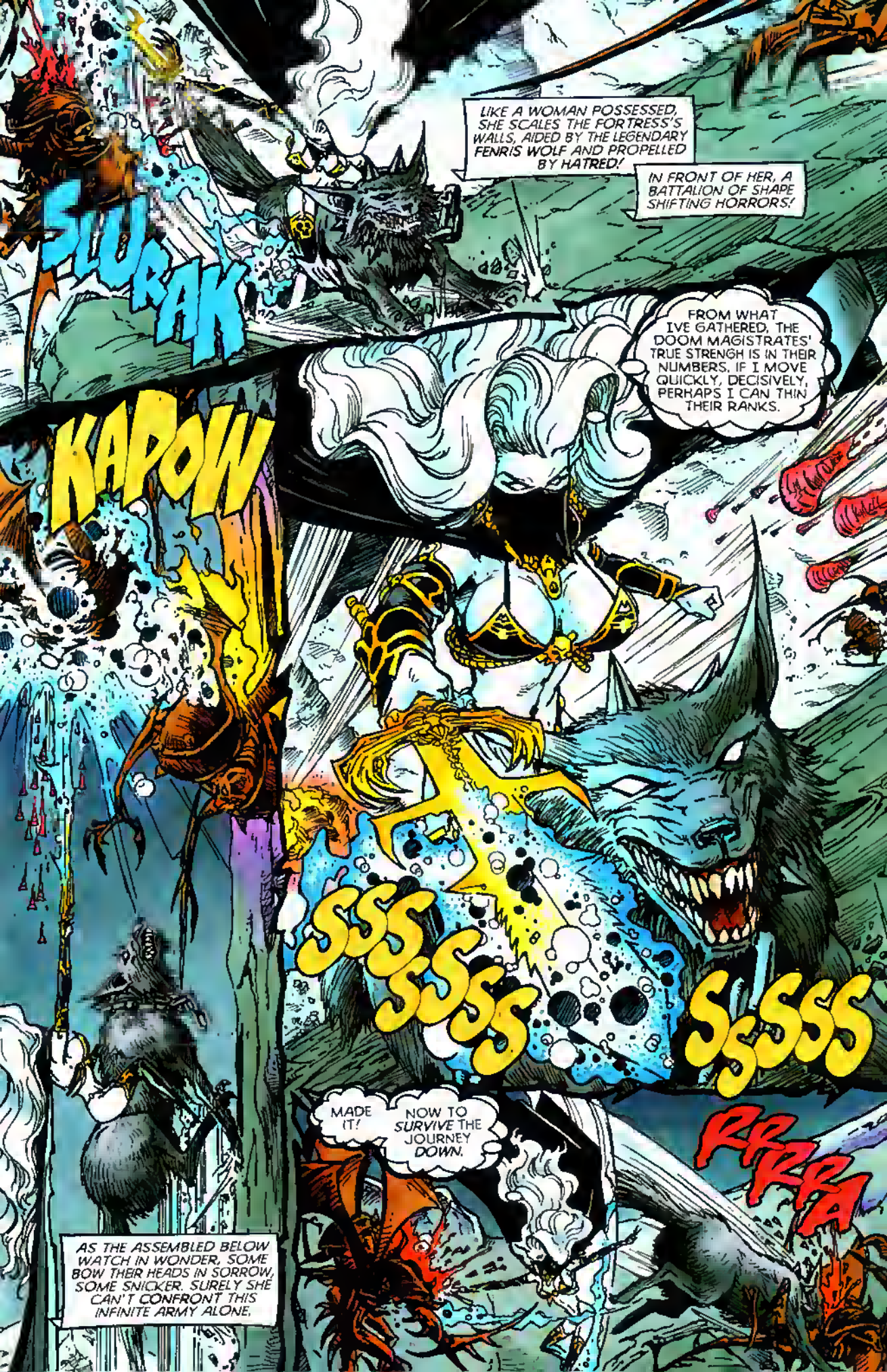
WHAT CAN
YOU EXPECT?
WE'VE ONLY THESE
MISBEGOTTEN
ANIMALS AS
ALLIES.

WATCH
YOUR TONGUE,
GODDING!

WE MUST GAIN
ENTRANCE TO
THE MAGISTRATES'
STRONGHOLD. BE
READY, ON
MY SAY.

BAH!
WHAT CAN YOU
DO? A MERE
WOMAN?

YOU
SHALL SEE,
EH?



LIKE A WOMAN POSSESSED,
SHE SCALES THE FORTRESS'S
WALLS, AIDED BY THE LEGENDARY
FENRIS WOLF AND PROPELLED
BY HATRED!

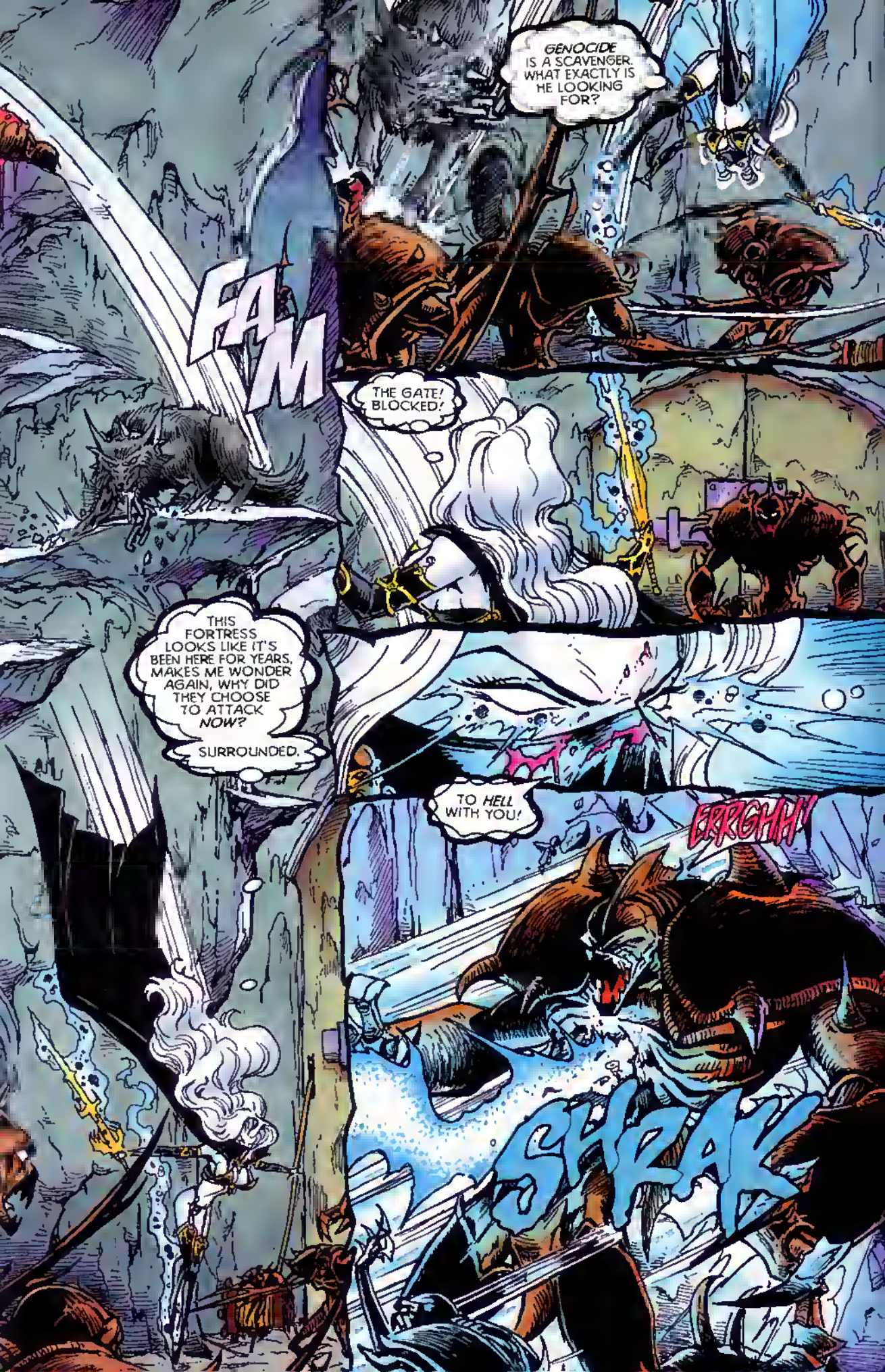
IN FRONT OF HER, A
BATTALION OF SHAPE
SHIFTING HORRORS!

FROM WHAT
I'VE GATHERED, THE
DOOM MAGISTRATES'
TRUE STRENGTH IS IN THEIR
NUMBERS. IF I MOVE
QUICKLY, DECISIVELY,
PERHAPS I CAN THIN
THEIR RANKS.

MADE
IT!

NOW TO SURVIVE THE
JOURNEY
DOWN.

AS THE ASSEMBLED BELOW
WATCH IN WONDER, SOME
BOW THEIR HEADS IN SORROW,
SOME SNICKER. SURELY SHE
CAN'T CONFRONT THIS
INFINITE ARMY ALONE.



GENOCIDE
IS A SCAVENGER.
WHAT EXACTLY IS
HE LOOKING
FOR?

FAM

THE GATE!
BLOCKED!

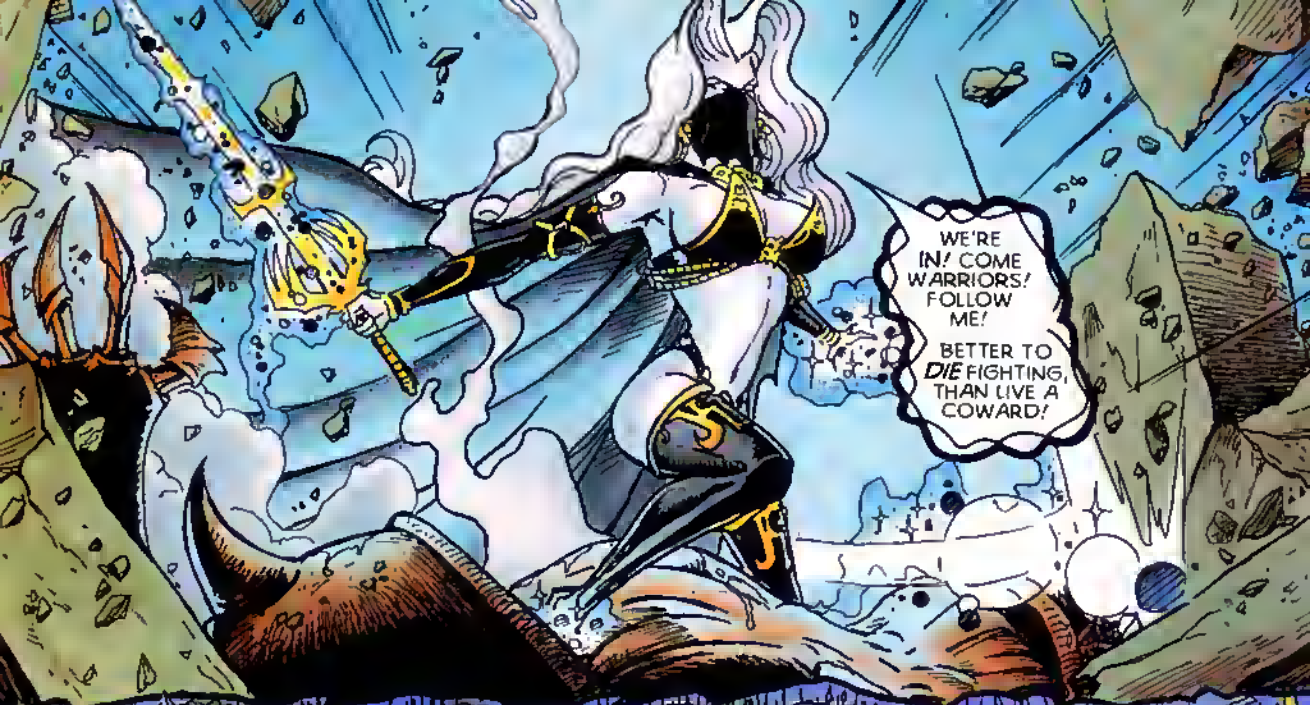
THIS
FORTRESS
LOOKS LIKE IT'S
BEEN HERE FOR YEARS.
MAKES ME WONDER
AGAIN, WHY DID
THEY CHOOSE
TO ATTACK
NOW?

SURROUNDED.

TO HELL
WITH YOU!

ERRGHH!

SHRAK



WE'RE
IN! COME
WARRIORS!
FOLLOW
ME!
BETTER TO
DIE FIGHTING,
THAN LIVE A
COWARD!



AYE!
AYE!
AYE!

AYE!

AYE!

WITCH!

NOW
I SEE WHY SHE'S
CALLED THE CHOSEN
ONE! I'VE NEVER SEEN
A BATTLE MAIDEN
MORE FIERCE!

LET'S
GO!



ATTACK!

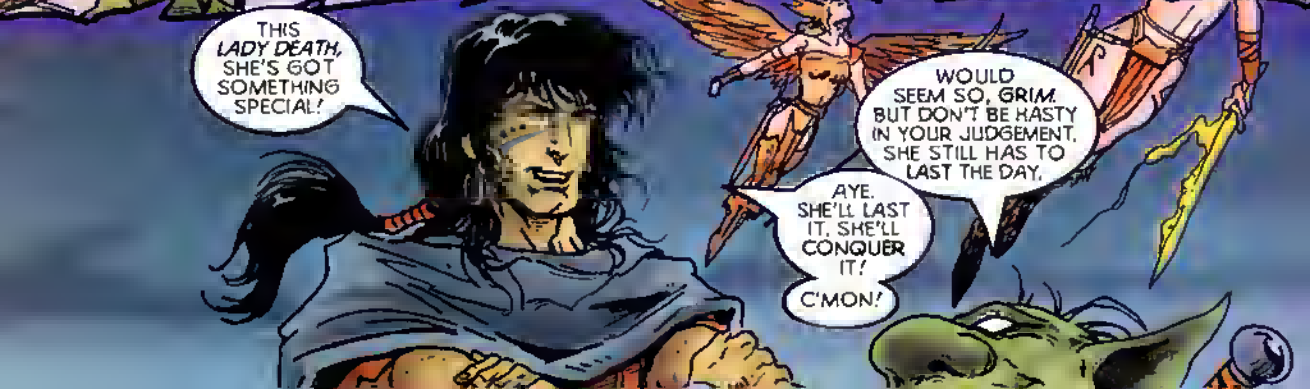
LADY DEATH
HAS TAKEN
COMMAND!

DID YOU
SEE, FRIEND
BROCK? IT'S
LIKE I TOL'
YA!

THIS
LADY DEATH,
SHE'S GOT
SOMETHING
SPECIAL!

WOULD
SEEM SO, GRIM.
BUT DON'T BE HASTY
IN YOUR JUDGEMENT.
SHE STILL HAS TO
LAST THE DAY.

AYE.
SHE'LL LAST
IT. SHE'LL
CONQUER
IT!
C'MON!



CAN YOU IMAGINE
PURE, PERPETUAL
ECSTASY AS IF EVERYTHING
YOU CHERISH OCCURS
SIMULTANEOUSLY AND
WITHOUT END?

CAN YOU IMAGINE A TIME OF
FORMLESS WONDER, NEVER
HAMPERED BY BOUNDARIES,
DEFINITIONS, LIMITATIONS - A
RAGING SEA OF DELECTABLE,
SENSUAL INFINITY, POWER,
REWARD AND BEING?

THEN YOU HAVE A HINT ABOUT
THE NATURE OF CHAOS -
THE TIME BEFORE CREATION,
THE TIME BEFORE ORDER
CAME TO THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO
TO ATTAIN CHAOS?!

FOR GENOCIDE, RULER
OF WRATHWORLD,
THE ANSWER IS EASY:

YOU WOULD
OBLITERATE
THE COSMOS.

THE HORDES OF MILLIONS WHO
WORK CEASELESSLY ON THESE
TOWERING COLUMNS CALL THEM
GENOCIDE'S HAMMERS.

EIGHT MIGHTY MONOLITHS
REACHING TOWARD THE
VASTNESS OF SPACE.

THEIR ACTUAL PURPOSE IS
UNKNOWN, THOUGH IT IS
GUESSED AT IN EXCITED
WHISPERS AMONG THE HOLY.

THEY WILL BRING
ABOUT DISORDER.

FORMLESSNESS.

CHAOS!

ENRAPTURED BY THIS
CATASTROPHIC
VISION, THEY WORK
THEMSELVES TO DEATH.

DEAREST
ANTIGONE, CAN YOU
TASTE MY ANTICIPATION?
THE END APPROACHES. LADY
DEATH PUSHES FORTH, ASSUMING
LEADERSHIP AS I ANTICIPATED
SHE'S DOING EXACTLY WHAT
I WANT HER TO, YET HER
CHOICES ARE HERE
COMPLETELY.

IN
TRUTH, GENOCIDE, I
FEAR THE STRANGE ORDER OF
IT ALL. THE WAY YOU PLOT
AND PLAN, IT'S UNBECOMING
OF A CHAOS LORD. YOU'VE LEFT
NO ROOM FOR INSTINCT,
FOR BEING.

I FEAR
YOU'VE BEEN
TAINED BY
CREATION.

WE
MUST SACRIFICE
TO ACHIEVE OUR
GOAL!

YESSS,
IT'SSS TRUE,
BUT HOW MUCH
MUST WE SACRIFICE
UNTIL WE BECOME
THE CREATURES
WE LOATHE MOST
OF ALL?

DO
YOU THINK
I LIKE WHAT THE
COSMOS HAS BECOME?
I DETEST IT! HEAVEN,
HELL, SPACE, FORM,
MATTER, TIME! IT'S
A PRISON!

ONCE
I THUNDERED
THROUGH INFINITY,
FREE, UNBRIDLED
AND WE SHALL
AGAIN!

WE SHALL
OVERCOME!

AND
CHAOS WILL
RULE THE
COSMOS
AGAIN!

GUARD,
REPORT.

MY
FIRST BLOOD,
VEX. HOW DID
SHE DO?

YOU
WON'T BE
PLEASED,
LORD.

SHE
DISOBEYED?!
BRING HER TO
ME!

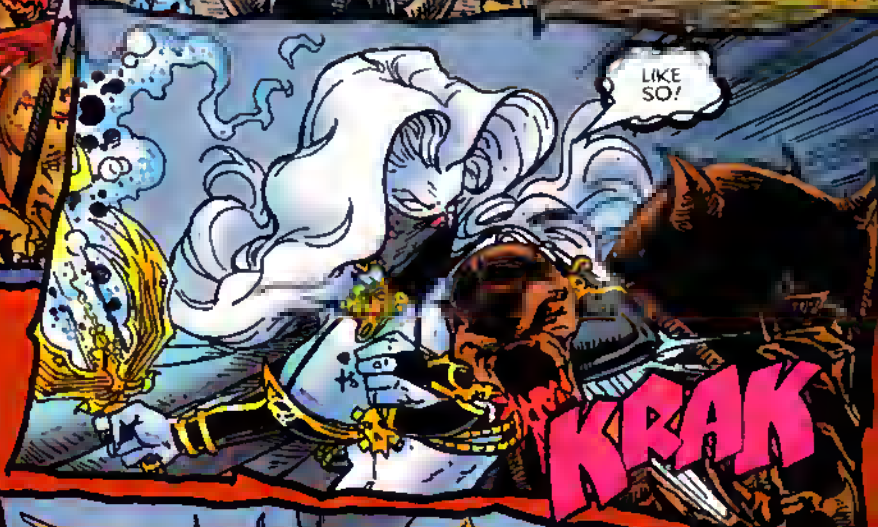


MASK
YOUR FACE!
THEN THEY
CAN'T INVADE
YOU!

READY?
READY?

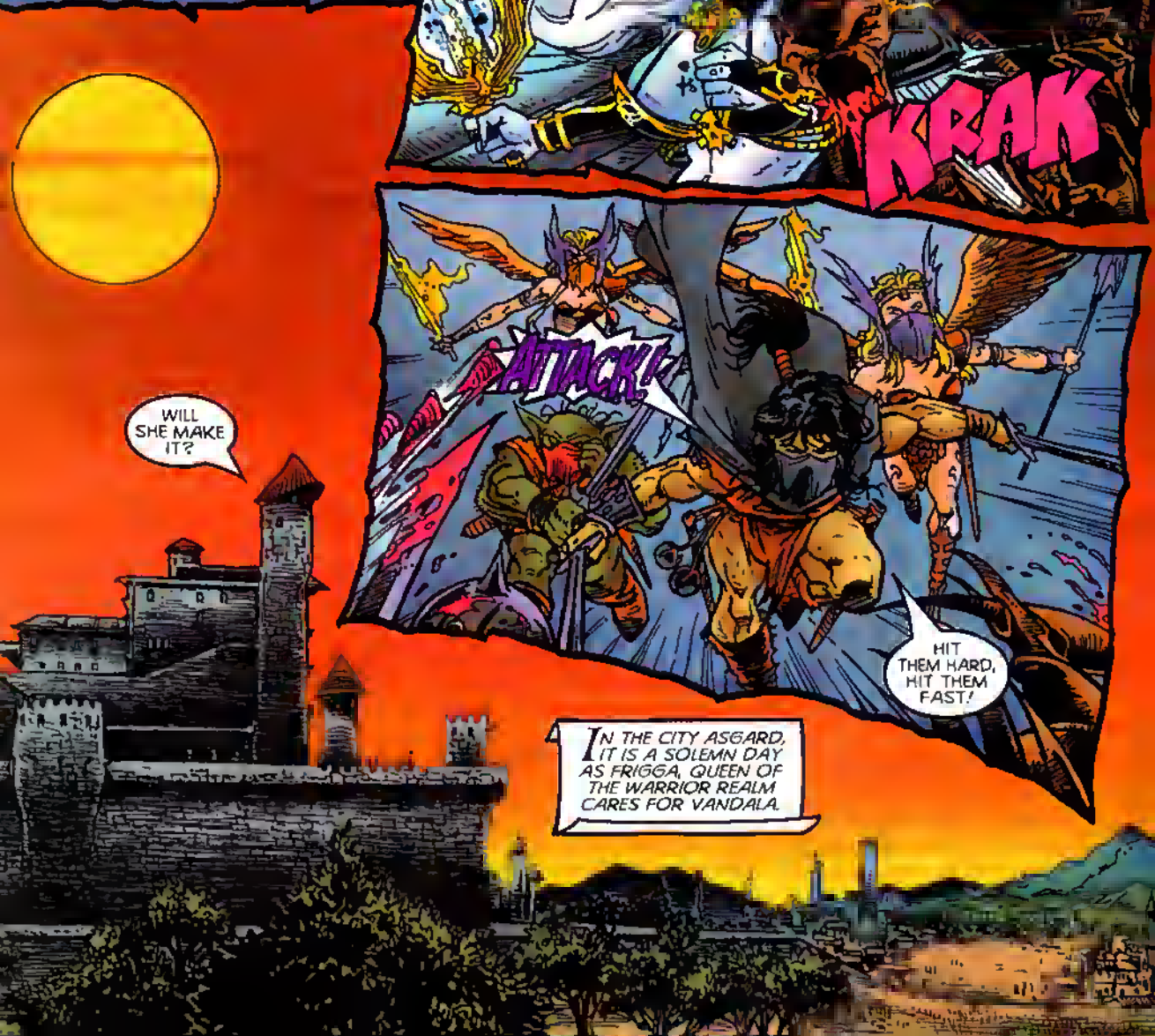
SHOW NO
MERCY!

ATTACK!



LIKE
SO!

KRAK



WILL
SHE MAKE
IT?



ATTACK!

HIT
THEM HARD,
HIT THEM
FAST!

IN THE CITY ASGARD,
IT IS A SOLEMN DAY
AS FRIGGA, QUEEN OF
THE WARRIOR REALM
CARES FOR VANDALA.



SHE'S
LOST LOTS OF
BLOOD, AND YOU
KNOW, SHE WASN'T
RECOVERED FROM HER
JOURNEY TO BEGIN
WITH. I'VE DONE
ALL I CAN.

I'M
AFRAID IT'S
ALL UP TO HER
NOW.

QUICKLY,
SISTER,
FLANK LADY
DEATH!

NOW
LET'S PRESS
ON!

COME
ON, CHILD -
FIGHT!

WHAT'S
THIS STRANGE
SENSATION?
I FEEL
ENERGIZED!

OUR
ENERGIES
MERGE!
AMAZING!

ODIN FELT HIS
POWER WAS TOO
VAST, TOO MUCH FOR
ONE GOD, SO HE PASSED
MUCH OF IT TO MY MOTHER
WHO IN TURN PASSED
IT TO ME.

THE
VALKYRIE POSSESS
THE SAME POWER,
I FEEL IT. ARE WE
THE SUM OF ODIN'S
POWER? COMBINED
WE ARE SO MUCH
STRONGER!

SPAT

SHE'S STEALING
YOUR THUNDER, EH
GODLING?

WHO CARES AS
LONG AS WE
WIN?!

I CARE,
SAVAGE!
I CARE!

AAAAA!

I LEAD
HERE, SSSOFT
SSSKIN!

SINESTRAL

AFRAID?
NO, NOT
REMOETELY!

HA HA!
HA!
WHERE IS
YOUR LEADER?
IS HE TOO
AFRAID TO
FACE ME?!

HOW IS
YOUR DEAR
DEPARTED, LADY
DEATH? MUSSST BE
PAINFUL TO LOSE A LOVED
ONE, YESSS, WE KNEW
YOU WERE FAMILY, WE
KNOW MUCH, SSSOFT
SSSKIN, TO USSS, YOU
ARE ALL PLAY-
THINGSSS.

BUT YOU
HAVE A SSSPECIAL
PLACE IN MY
HEART.

YOU
CALLED ME
LOOTER BACK
IN YOUR ENDLESS
GRAVEYARD.
YOU DEMAEND
THE HORDE! OUR
MISSION IS A HOLY
ONE, SSSOFT
SSSKIN.

WE
SSSEEK THE
RETURN TO
CHAOSSS!

WITH
GREAT PRIDE
AND ENDLESS
TURMOIL I BECAME
HONOR GUARD OF
THE UNHOLY RANSACK,
A PRIVILEGED
POSSITION AMONG
MY HORDE.

YOU
BESTED ME
IN BATTLE,
DISGRACED ME IN
FRONT OF LORD
GENOCIDE! YOU
RUINED MY
FACCCCE!

I WASSS
DEMOTED TO WRATH-
WORLD'S TREACHEROUSSS
UNDERHIVESSS, THOUGH
I TOILED UP THRUUGH THE
RANKSSS, MY PUNISHMENT
IS ETERNAL -- I AM
FORBIDDEN TO HEAL MY
FACCCCE, FORBIDDEN!
HEAR ME?

* LADY
DEATH: THE
CRUCIBLE
#1/2.

NOW I
RETURN THE
GESTURE!



HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CUT?

ARRGH!

SHE'S STRONGER NOW, MORE VICIOUS!

WE'VE GOT TO HELP HER!

NO! GRIM HOLD!

THE FIGHT IS HERS AND HERS ALONE!

THERE IS NO CASTE LOWER IN HORDE CULTURE! I AM LOWEST NOW! I CAN EASILY HEAL MYSELF, BUT I'M NOT ALLOWED TO!

AH, THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME LOOTING, EH? AND IF MY HEARTSTRUCK FRIEND GRIMMIR DOESN'T WANT TO JOIN IN, THEN THERE'S TAKINGS FOR ME!

HEE HEE HEE!

ALL REMARK, ALL SSSTARE!
THEY KNOW MY DEFEAT!

EEAAAAA!

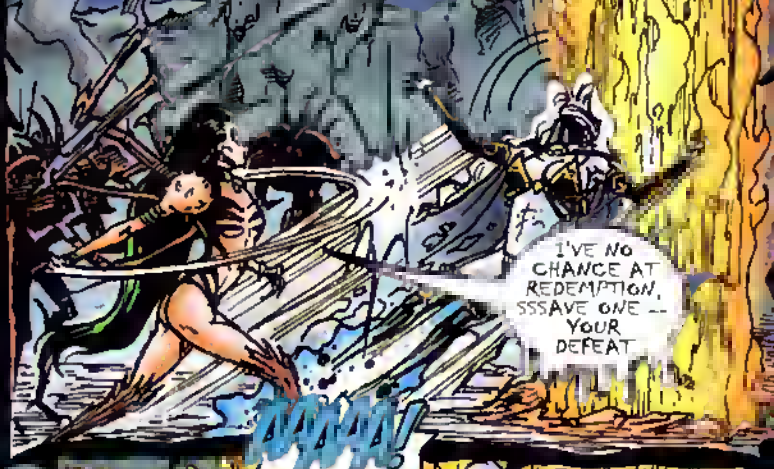


Uh, Oh,

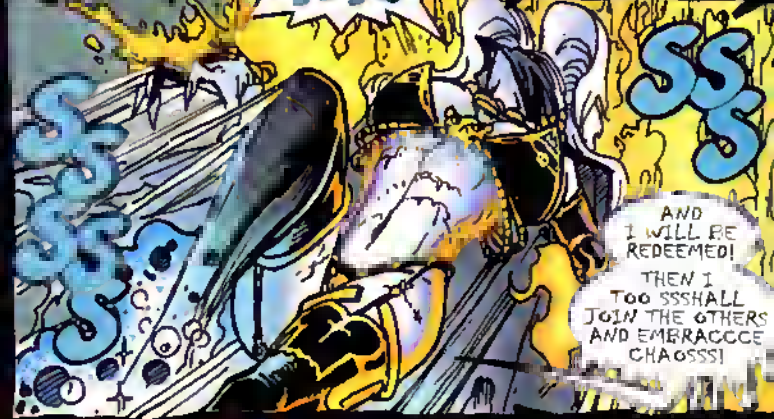
YOU WOULDN'T BY CHANCE BE INTERESTED IN A LITTLE BARTERING?

DIDN'T THINK SO

CONSUME IT!



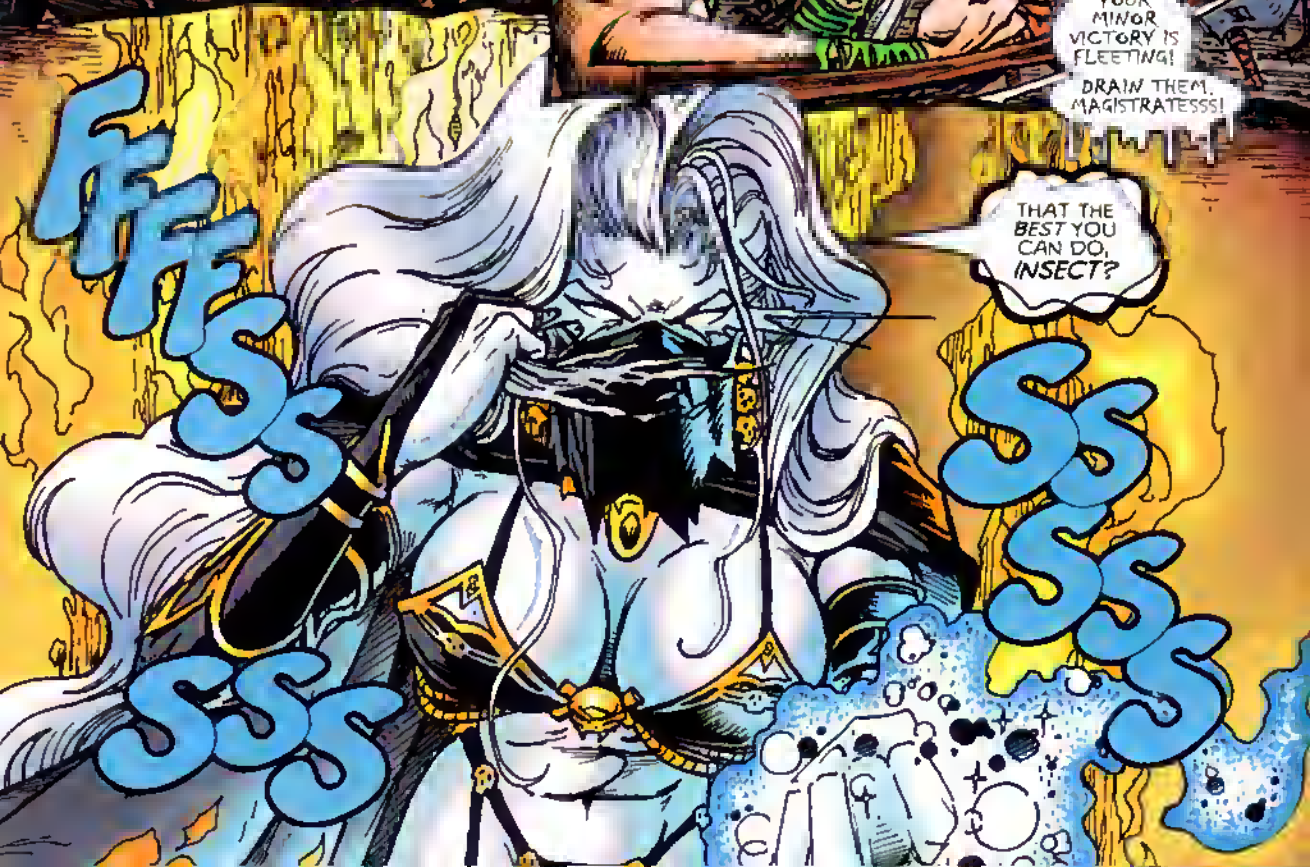
I'VE NO CHANCE AT REDEMPTION, SSSAVE ONE -- YOUR DEFEAT



AND I WILL BE REDEEMED!
THEN I TOO SSSSHALL JOIN THE OTHERS AND EMBRACCCCE CHAOSSSI



YOUR MINOR VICTORY IS FLEEING!
DRAIN THEM, MAGISTRATSSSS!



THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO, INSECT?

THAT'S RIGHT,
COWARDS, SEEK THE
SHADOWS!

GRRR RR

WHAT?

Uh... NICE
WOLFIE, NICE
WOLFIE

HOW DID
I GET MYSELF
INTO THIS MESS?
I'M A SIMPLE
WEAPONMAKER.
I'M A LOVER, NOT
A FIGHTER.

AND YES, I
LOVE BATTLE, I
LOVE WAR, AS YOU
CAN SURELY TELL,
SINESTRA.

KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

UGH!

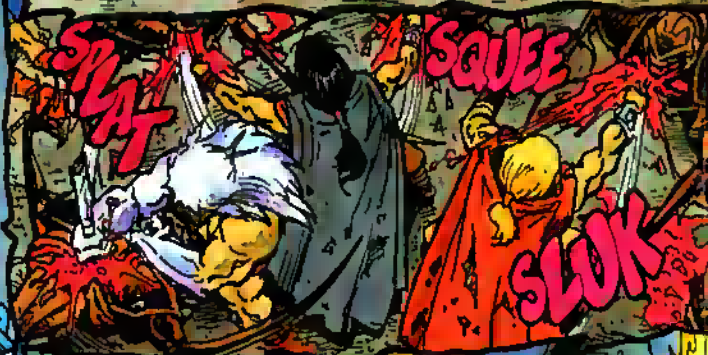
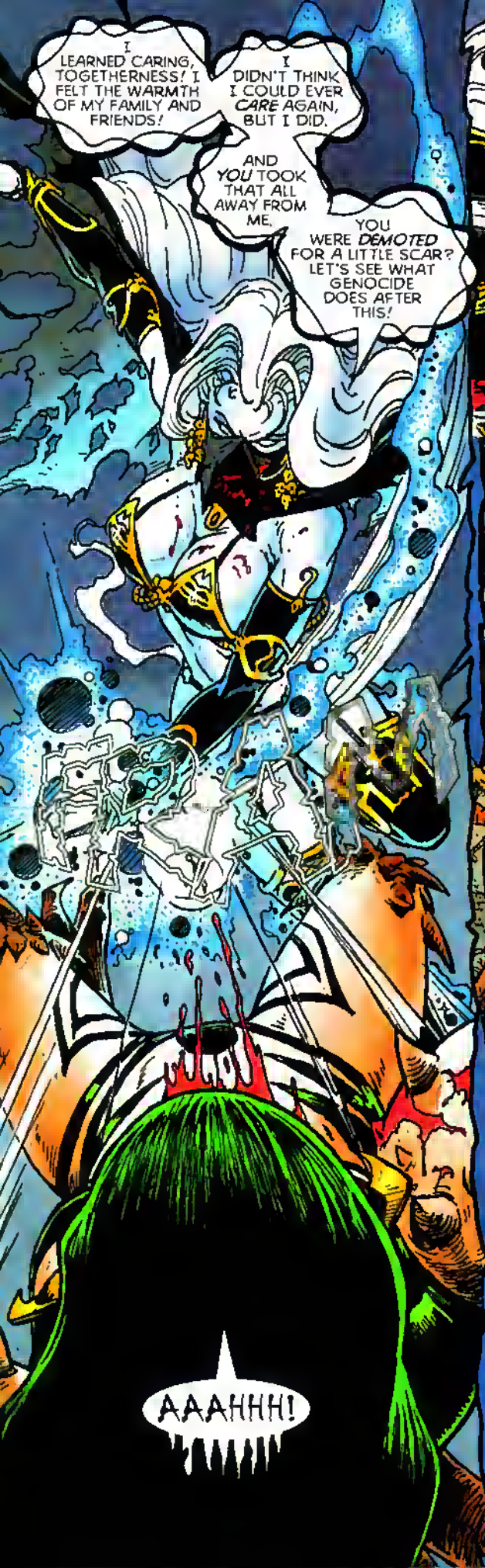
FWAK

FRIGGA,
SHALL I CALL
IN THE HOLY
MAN TO GIVE
HER HER LAST
RIGHTS?

A MOMENT
LONGER... PLEASE
HER EYES STILL
FLUTTER

I CAME
HERE TO BATTLE,
I CAME HERE TO
RAGE, BECAUSE IT'S
WHAT I KNOW!

BUT
AMONG THE
ASGARDIANS, WITH
MY SISTER VANDALA,
I LEARNED THERE'S
MORE THAN
ENDLESS
BATTLES!





WHOA,
WOLFIE!
WHOA!

HA HA!
SEEMS OUR
ARMY IS AGAIN
ASSEMBLED!

NOW,
BURN THIS
WRETCHED
PLACE TO THE
GROUND!

WE'VE DONE
WELL, BUT FOR HOW
LONG? MUST KEEP UP
MY FRONT, RALLY THE
PEOPLE, BUT AGAINST
WHAT?

I RECALL
FACING GENOCIDE.
I DIDN'T STAND
A CHANCE AGAINST
HIM, NOT REMOTELY.
HIS POWER DWARFED
LUCIFER'S.

ONCE
I BELIEVED THAT
THERE WAS NO HIGHER
CHALLENGE THAN LUCIFER'S
DEFEAT. I WAS WRONG. I
SENSE THAT NOW, I FEEL WE
ARE ALL RESPONDING
TO HIS GRAND
DESIGN.

SINISTRA
MENTIONED "A
RETURN TO CHAOS" --
WHAT DID SHE
MEAN? AND HOW
WILL THEY STRIKE
NEXT?

SHE'S
DONE WHAT I'VE
FAILED TO DO -- BRING
TOGETHER THE CLANS.
I DON'T LIKE THIS.
I DON'T LIKE IT AT
ALL.

FOR
NOW, I BEST
PUT THOSE
THOUGHTS
ASIDE.

ONWARD,
BACK TO THE
GOLDEN
REALM!

Ughh...



THEY RALLY
AROUND LADY
DEATH. PERFECT.
ABSOLUTELY
PERFECT!

IT'S
CRUCIAL
THAT THEY
ARE TOGETHER
WHEN THE
TIME IS
RIPE.

POOR
SINESTRA,
LITTLE PAWN.
VANQUISHED AGAIN.
HER FIRST BLOOD
SCORPIA WILL
BE ANGERED
INDEED.

LORD I'VE
BROUGHT
VEX AS YOU
ORDERED.

VEX, YOU
CROSSED ME! I
COMMANDED YOU
TO KILL VANDALA.
YOU DIDN'T. YOU
LET SINESTRA
DO THE DEED.

HOW DID
YOU KNOW
FATHER?

I
KNOW
ALL.

YOU
DISAPPOINT
ME, VEX.

YOU ARE
NO LONGER MY
FIRST BLOOD. I
SENTENCE YOU TO
ETERNITY IN THE
UNDERHIVES!

NO! NOT
THAT! IT ISN'T
FAIR! NO!

WHAT
IS?

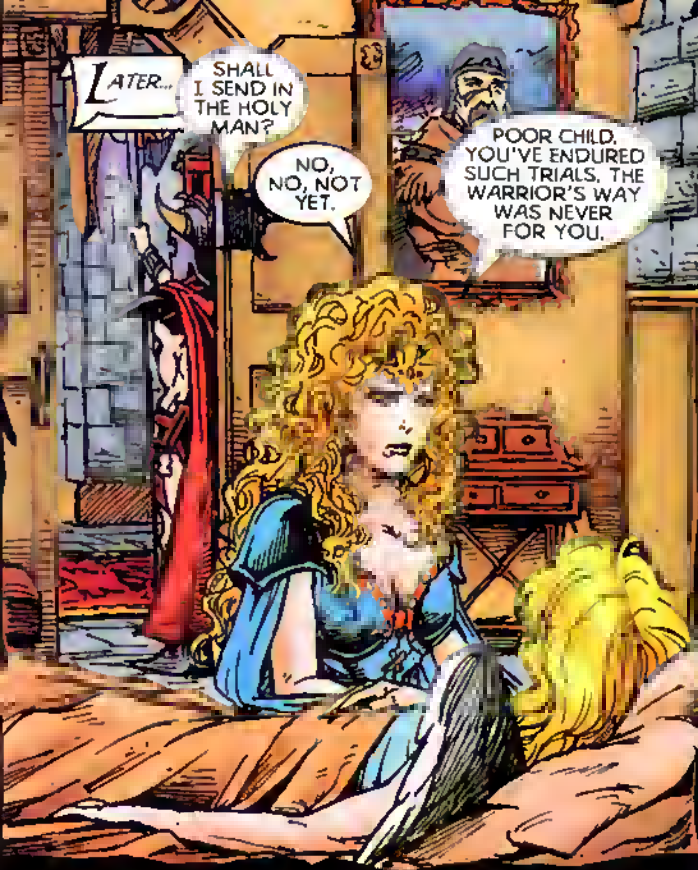
HER BEHAVIOR
MUST BE ALLOWED FOR.
SHE DOESN'T NEED
TO BE A KILLER!

I SAY
SHE DOES.
ANYONE DON'T
CROSS ME.

ME CROSS
YOU? YOU ARE
CROSSING THE
WAYS OF CHAOS
SIMPLY BY YOUR
ACTIONS. WHY MUST
SHE CONFORM?
BECOME
ORDERED? IT'S
ABSRDI!

YOU
LACK
VISION,
MATE.

WE
MUST ALL
PAY THE
PRICE FOR
CHAOS!



LATER...

SHALL I SEND IN THE HOLY MAN?

NO, NO, NOT YET.

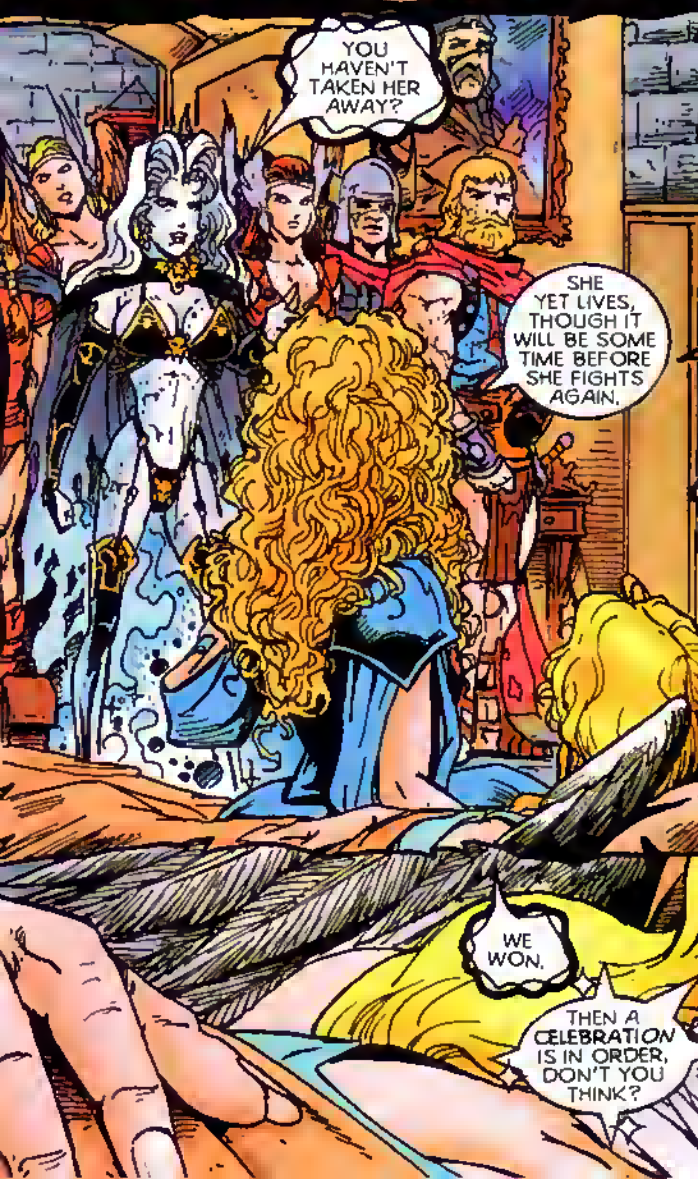
POOR CHILD, YOU'VE ENDURED SUCH TRIALS. THE WARRIOR'S WAY WAS NEVER FOR YOU.



FRIGGA? FRIGGA?

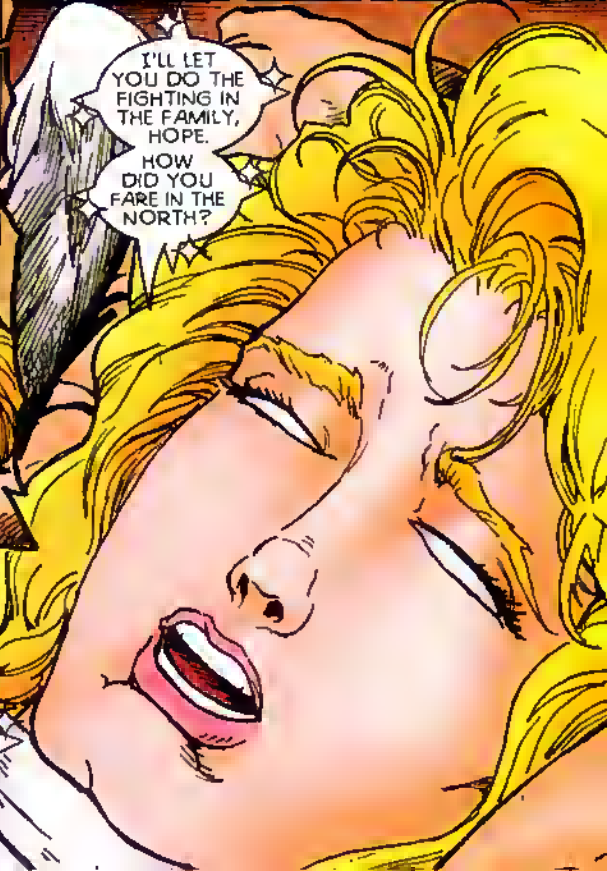
WHERE IS SHE?

WHERE IS MY SISTER VANDALA?!



YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN HER AWAY?

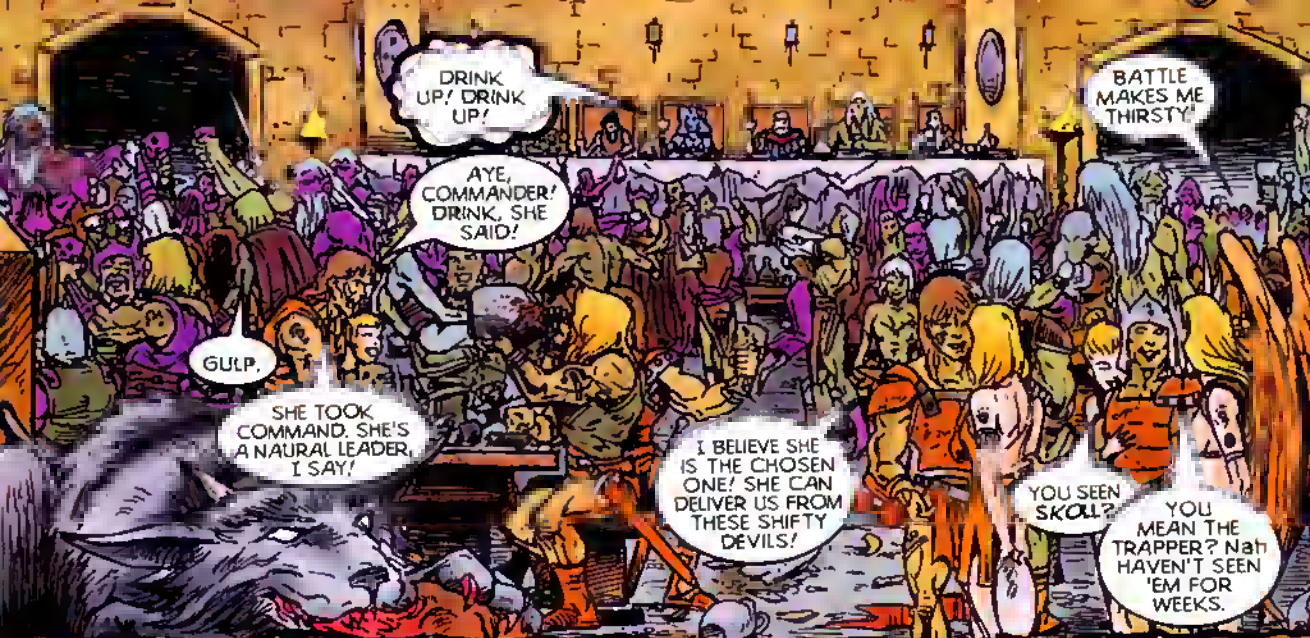
SHE YET LIVES, THOUGH IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE SHE FIGHTS AGAIN.



I'LL LET YOU DO THE FIGHTING IN THE FAMILY, HOPE. HOW DID YOU FARE IN THE NORTH?

WE WON.

THEN A CELEBRATION IS IN ORDER, DON'T YOU THINK?



DRINK UP! DRINK UP!

BATTLE MAKES ME THIRSTY!

AYE, COMMANDER! DRINK, SHE SAID!

GULP.

SHE TOOK COMMAND. SHE'S A NATURAL LEADER, I SAY!

I BELIEVE SHE IS THE CHOSEN ONE! SHE CAN DELIVER US FROM THESE SHIFTY DEVILS!

YOU SEEN SKOLL?

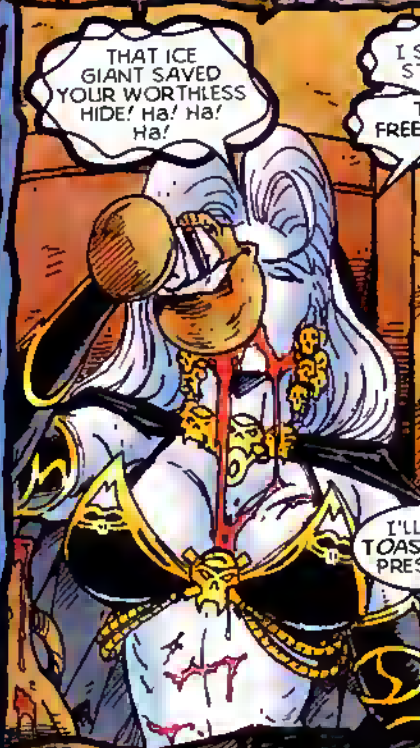
YOU MEAN THE TRAPPER? Nah! HAVEN'T SEEN 'EM FOR WEEKS.



THIS IS OUTRAGEOUS! NO ICE GIANT SHOULD SIT AMONG ASGARDIANS.

CALL ME THRALL, DYNASTIES CHANGE, LITTLE GOD. WE FOUGHT TOGETHER. WE SHOULD DRINK TOGETHER!

BAH!



THAT ICE GIANT SAVED YOUR WORTHLESS HIDE! Ha! Ha! Ha!

I SAY HE STAYS! TO FREEDOM!

I'LL NOT TOAST IN HIS PRESENCE!

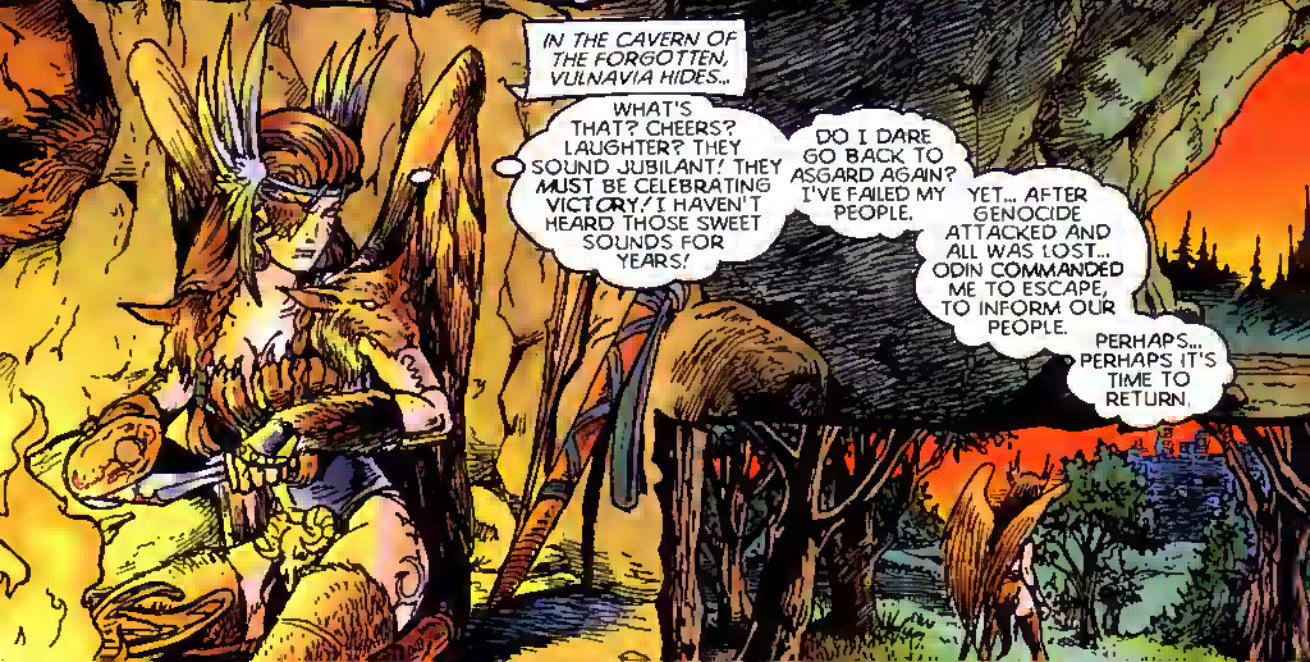


I AM IN CHARGE HERE!

I THINK NOT! THAT'S ENOUGH OUTTA YOU!

KRAK

UGH!



IN THE CAVERN OF THE FORGOTTEN, VULNAVIA HIDES...

WHAT'S THAT? CHEERS? LAUGHTER? THEY SOUND JUBILANT! THEY MUST BE CELEBRATING VICTORY! I HAVEN'T HEARD THOSE SWEET SOUNDS FOR YEARS!

DO I DARE GO BACK TO ASGARD AGAIN? I'VE FAILED MY PEOPLE.

YET... AFTER GENOCIDE ATTACKED AND ALL WAS LOST... ODIN COMMANDED ME TO ESCAPE, TO INFORM OUR PEOPLE.

PERHAPS... PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO RETURN.

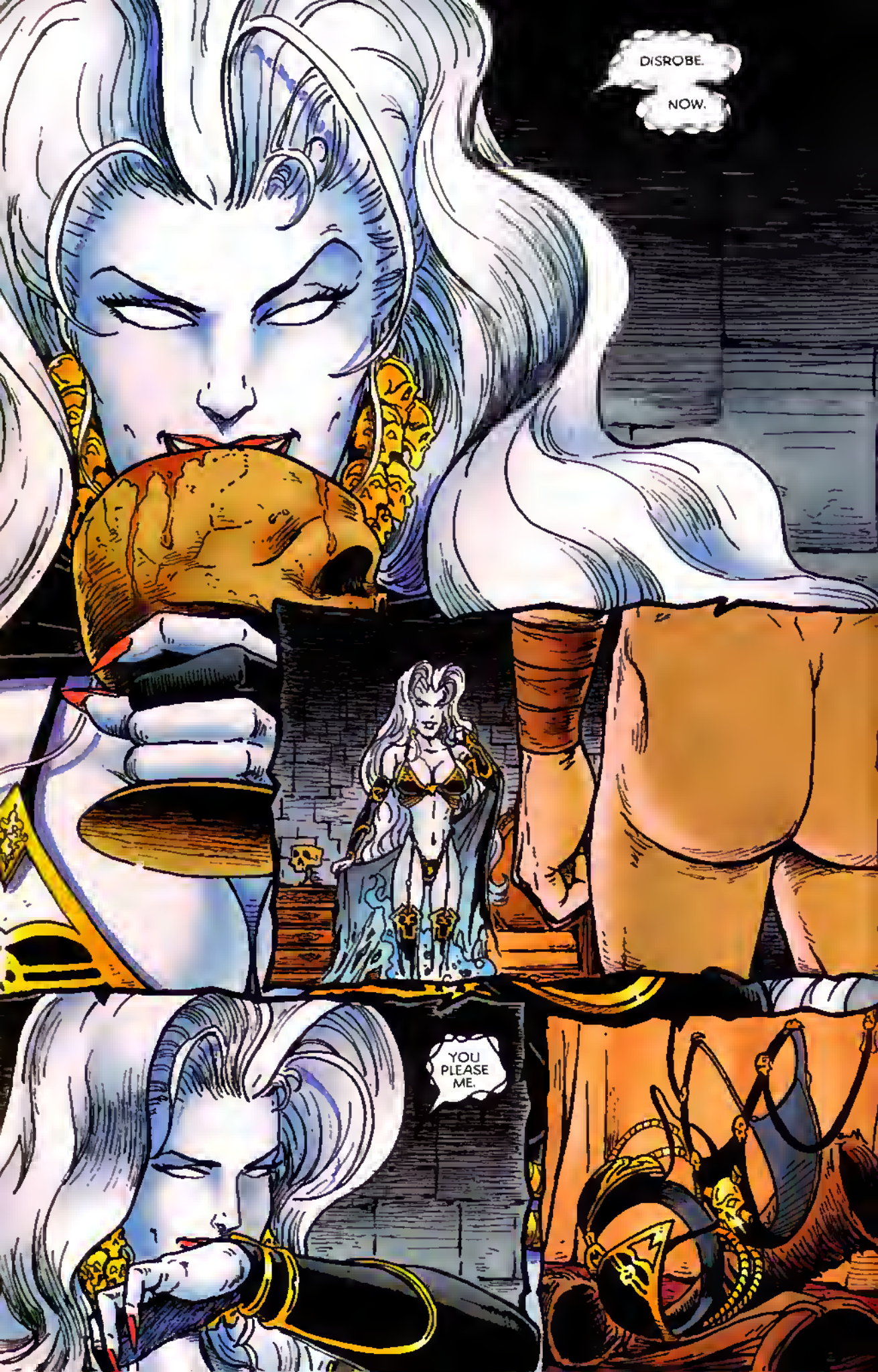
Mmmmm.
YOU'LL DO.

THE
CHARGE
OF BATTLE
MAKES MY
BLOOD
RACE!

?

COME.

LET'S DO
A LITTLE
CELEBRATING
OF OUR OWN.
eh?!



DISROBE.

NOW.

YOU
PLEASE
ME.

THEY WERE
WIPE OUT, BURNED!
SINISTRA SUFFERED
GRAVELY AT THE HANDS
OF THE ASGARDIANS.
SHE WAS BEATEN,
TORTURED --
BUT LEFT TO
LIVE.

YOU KNOW
WHAT I MUST DO.
IT IS OUR WAY.
SINISTRA MUST
SUFFER AS FODDER
IN THE WAR PITS.

I HAVE
GRIM NEWS.
IT'S ABOUT
YOUR FIRST
BLOOD,
SINISTRA,
AND HER
BATTALION.

YOU
CALLED,
DARK
LORD?

HOW
MAY I
SERVE
YOU?

WHO
WHO WHO.


HEE HEE
HEE.

HA HA
HA.

BUT I
MUST TELL
YOU. ONE
AMONG THE
ASGARDIANS
WAS CHIEFLY
RESPONSIBLE.

SHE'S
THEIR NEW
LEADER.
APPARENT,
LADY
DEATH!

THIS
CANNOT GO
UNPUNISHED,
LORD!



YOU'VE
WAITED LONG
FOR A FRONTAL
ASSAULT ON
ASGARD.
SCORPIA.

THAT
TIME HAS
COME.

SUMMON THE
**NECRO-ELITE
GUARD!**

TOMORROW
ASGARD DIES
A THOUSAND
DEATHS!

YESSSSSSS,
AND WITH IT,
THIS

**LADY
DEATH!**

NEXT: IN 60 DAYS!
**YOUR TIME IS
GONNA COME!**

Lady Death®

"The Crucible" part 2 (of 6): "No Quarter"



— Glaring Omissions Dept. —

Due to an oversight, the fully awesome **DE JUSKO** was not credited for painting the glorious cover to the Lady Death and the Women of Chaos! Gallery #1. We apologize, dude, and won't let it happen again.

The Story So Far

Lady Death comes to Asgard with Vandalu. She learns that Odin and most of the royal family of the golden realm were killed by a mysterious being called GENOCIDE and his hideous, shape-changing **DOOM MAGISTRATES**. Since then they've invaded Asgard scavenging for something. On Wrathworld, Genocide is pleased as an army of workers is building a giant, bio-morphic contraption for some unknown, deadly purpose. How is all this linked to Asgard and the ravishing diva of death?

Lady Death learns that her mother, Marion, was originally married to the Viking, Agnar, and she had two daughters, Vulnavia and Vandalu. No sooner does she learn this, than tragedy befalls them all. Sinistra, one of Genocide's elite assassins, slices Vandalu's throat! Lady Death declares war!

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Please support your local comic shop. We recommend that you purchase and order our stuff through them. However, if that doesn't work out for any reason, send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to receive a catalog of available Chaos! Comics & stuff to: **CHAOS! COMICS COLLECTORS CATALOG**: 7645 E. Evans Rd, Suite 6, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. (No Stamp-No Catalog)

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Last Writes

Last Writes: 7645 E. Evans Rd. Suite 6 • Scottsdale, AZ 85260

DEAR BRIAN:

I wanted to respond to Lyle Artis' letter from Lady Death: The Crucible #1 regarding the lack of Chaos! coverage in the fan press.

Dear Lyle:

You claim to read the comics trades and even list COMBO in your call to arms, but I'm sure you do not mean to mention us in the same breath as some of the others. If you truly read COMBO, you'd know that we not only pay attention to Chaos! Comics, but respect them as well.

First of all, COMBO has never once made fun of Lady Death or her breasts. As a matter of fact, COMBO has even defended her as a strong female lead character as opposed to a "bad girl." And second, there is coverage of Chaos! in every issue of COMBO. Whether it's our detailed storyline descriptions in "What's New in Comics" or the exclusive interviews and feature articles. COMBO #23, out the middle of October, features the first interview with Steven Hughes in any fan press publication. And while Chaos! does reign on our cover at Halloween time, this is not the only time Chaos! characters have been or will be featured. COMBO #18 celebrated the release of Purgatori with an amazing Jim Balent/Purgatori flip cover and interview. And COMBO #25, our two year anniversary issue, will feature an Evil Ernie flip cover celebrating Ernie's five year anniversary. And I don't even want to mention all the exclusive contests we've done as well. As Chaos! continues to publish high quality comics featuring dynamic storylines, COMBO will be leading the fan press charge.

So if every fan of Lady Death and Chaos! Comics wants to write a letter to COMBO requesting we give more coverage, that's fine. But remember, when the coverage is there, as it is in COMBO, it's a real good idea to buy the magazines so the coverage will continue. After all, we are the fan press, and the fans are what drives the comic industry.

Sincerely
Jan M. Feller
COMBO, Managing Editor

Chaos! Comics would like to give much respect to Jan Feller and COMBO for truly they are "sworn to the black." Please support them every month. They genuinely rule!

TO ALL AT CHAOS!

Greetings once again from Area 51.

Just a few questions and comments about Lady Death: The Crucible #1/2. I must begin with a word of warning: the story begins with Lady Death lying in bed half asleep. At the end of the Crucible, she'd better not wake up and realize, "It was all just a dream." Don't even consider it.

The scarboils are amusing little critters. At first, I thought they reminded me of the fawas from Star Wars. But later, I realized they must be relatives of Imp from the Demonica & Diabolica story. Like Imp, the scarboils have a few magical powers, a tendency to get into trouble, and an attraction toward dangerous women.

This Vulvavia person: I recognize the name—she was the silent partner of Dr. Phibes. Is she Vandala's boss or something? And are we to make something of the fact that Vulvavia has lost one eye, and Sinestra has just had one side of her face bashed in? Has Sinestra also lost an eye?

Lord Genocide is not like Lady Death's other opponents. While everyone else wastes time with a lot of chest thumping and posturing, Lord Genocide is casual, almost dismissive, of Lady Death. As Sherlock Holmes once said, "I disregard the bluster, but this man says rather less than he means." Lady Death is not accustomed to being taken so lightly. But don't worry—she'll make a believer out of him.

E.J. Wood

To answer your questions, Ed, don't worry, The Crucible isn't a dream—it's a nightmare!!! Yes, Vulvavia was named after Dr. Phibes' silent partner. FYI, Lady Death's father, Mathias, was named after the leader of the Nightmen in Omega Man. I love old flicks. And finally, there's no connection between Sinestra and Vulvavia.

CHAOS!

I have received my copy of The Crucible #1/2. I'm rather intrigued by it in several spots. First of all, this was the first meeting of Lady Death and Genocide. Now, I kind of see Genocide as one of the Pirates of Telemach, only much more powerful and ambitious. So he's Lucifer's older brother, eh? That is in itself a dangerous fact. Lady Death barely defeated Lucifer as it was, so to go up against his older and more powerful brother, this could be very bad. I'm wondering why you reprinted The Reckoning #1. Not that I'm collecting Chaos! for what the

books are valued at, but this reprint will hurt the value derived from rarity. To say you have The Reckoning #1 is a big thing, an object of pride for me and others. Also you're reprinting Youth Gone Wild, which I don't really mind because I just have the trade paperback. I urge you, however, to not reprint anything else. The rarity of Chaos! comics is one of their best features, and a glut of the market cannot lie good in the end.

As A Foulness Shall Ye Know Them,
Dan L. Wells II

P.S. The send-off above is a quote from H.P. Lovecraft. Check him out if you haven't already.

Regarding Genocide's relationship to Lucifer—I wouldn't take it too literally, though there is more there than meets the eye. We reprinted Lady Death: The Reckoning #1 because of numerous requests and we only printed to order. We're reprinting Evil Ernie: Youth Gone Wild #1-#5 because five years have passed and it's time to turn on a new generation of fiends. So you know, other than trade paperbacks (and a cool box set Christmas 1997), we have no plans to reprint any Chaos! comic in 1997.

DEAR FIENDS,

Greetings from one of your newest Fiend Club members. I received my starter kit a few days ago and I was very pleased with the material provided. I have even been offered \$25 for my fan club t-shirt. The starter kit even provided a promo card that I have been looking for (Evil Ernie All Chromium Set Promo Card #2).

I am looking forward to the new Lady Death series: The Crucible. The 1/2 offer in Wizard only whetted my appetite for more, though the 1/2 issue did raise two major questions for me. 1. At the end of the Odyssey series, it appears that both Lady Death and Vandala set out to encounter Genocide, so when did the events shown in The Crucible #1/2 occur? 2. In her first encounter with Genocide in the Endless Graveyard, Genocide refers to Lucifer as his little brother; is this a brother in the normal sense of the word or in another sense?

In conclusion, I would like to tell the crew at Chaos! Comics that I have enjoyed every issue that I have read including Delonator, Lynch Mob, and the one shot Biink of Eternity like artwork was fantastic when the comic was done by Chaos! and I would also like to plug the store where I purchase

my comics: ATOMIC COMICS, 5615 S. WESTERN, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73109. The store is fantastic and the people who own and operate the store are, in my opinion, the best in the business.

Thanks,
Robert L. Hall

If you check the first caption on the first page of Lady Death: The Crucible #1, you will see that the events that transpired occurred five years ago in the Endless Graveyard. As for your second question, refer to the answer above.

DEAR CHAOS!

Over the past two years or so I have become a big fan of many independent companies. Because of my dislike of what has become of DC, Marvel, and even Image comics, I wanted to write you this letter and tell you that I really enjoy reading your comics. Two years ago, I would spend 90% of my money on DC, Marvel, and Image comics. But for some ungodly reason, they have given us what I have called the "Crossover Syndrome." Now don't get me wrong—I like a little crossover now and then—it's kind of interesting. But what these guys are doing is insulting as a comic book fan! Just how much do they think a person is willing to spend just to keep up with a storyline that makes no @#%\$ sense to begin with?!

That brings me to you. I like the flow of your stories and I enjoy the art tremendously!!! And most of all, I like the characters. I like what you are doing and I will continue to write now and then and tell you what I think of your stuff (if you don't mind).

Note: My friends, you just don't get any better than what you're doing to Lady Death these days. I like it, I like it, I like it, I like it, I like it!!!!

Lorenzo Jones

No, Lorenzo, I don't mind.

DEAR CHAOS!

I just wanted to say that I just finished reading Lady Death: The Odyssey #4, and man, was it awesome! The story, while simpler than I would have liked, was still good, while the inks, pencils, and everything else was spectacular in a Chaos! sort of way. I like Lady Death's new costume—it gives her a more regal and in control look and intensifies her cunning and savagery. I have two questions to ask: 1. Crippler seems like a very interesting character, will he be appearing in any other Chaos! books or possibly his own series? 2. Why did you destroy Asteroth so quickly? He seemed like he could become an archnemesis of Lady Death and maybe even be her fiercest rival in the Judgment Era.

A fiend forever,
Billy Thompson

Cremator will appear in about a year from now. Asteroth will return when you least expect him. (Whoops, I'm givin' stuff away!)



Rafael Ayala

DEAR FIENDS,

Greetings once again from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

I finished reading Lady Death: The Odyssey #4 and I thought I would tell you that the series kicked some major #5%*. Once again, Lady Death is the proud, regal, and dangerous lady that I have come to know and love.

To tell the truth, I was a little worried at the end of The Odyssey #3 when Asteroth confronted Vandala because it looked like she had been destroyed like all the other individuals that Asteroth had encountered in his quest to find Lady Death and if Vandala had been destroyed, how would Lady Death find her way back? Too bad for Asteroth that he didn't realize the foolishness of his quest after all—anyone who could defeat Lucifer would make short work of him.

I love the variant cover for Odyssey #4. I have seen a few letters in the Chaos! letters column that complained about having alternate covers. I can only say that if they don't want to buy an alternate, don't buy it. Unlike some companies, Chaos! only puts out alternates that have a limited run (1 for every 20). I have seen some companies that put out 3 alternate covers and they are evenly distributed and then turn around and do the same thing with the next issue also. That means, to get every cover, the individual has to buy 7 to 9 comics. The individuals who complain should be happy that this does not occur with Chaos! Comics.

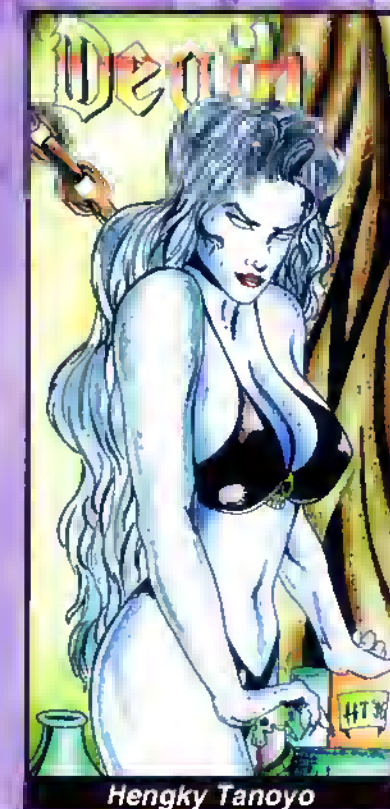
I would be interested in buying Chaos! action figures, although I would not want to see them hanging in some department store in the toy section. Also, if possible, put the figures out slowly. For example, have Lady Death and/or Evil Ernie come out the first month and then come out with Smiley, Cremator, or Purgatori the next month. This way, Chaos! fans can pick up all the figures without breaking their wallets.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Hall

Hey, Robert, you got 2 letters in this column—good going. Action figures, huh? Lots of people are asking about Chaos! action figures. Lots of rumors getting around. Stay tuned.



The Chaos! crew in Phoenix, Arizona with BABY DEATH!



Hengky Tanoyo

Next Issue:

CRUCIAL ISSUE ALERT! Lady Death's most harrowing, bloodthirsty adventure yet continues! With Asgard under siege by Scorpius and the Necro-Elite Doom Magistrates, things look grim for Lady Death's newfound family, so she journeys to Valhalla, hall of the fallen heroes, for help. While resurrecting an undead army of Viking warriors, Lady Death encounters a strangely, BEDLAM, guardian of the great Nexus. What does his presence suggest? Could Genocide be closer than ever in his quest for power to use against all creation? Answer: YES!

Finally, witness the SHOCK ENDING as Lady Death's sword darkness is obliterated—and so is Lady Death!

Chris



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